

ACK

RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1963

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Meriden Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1963. As customary, in so doing, the many social services also administered by me in my capacity as Area Medical Officer on behalf of the Warwickshire County Council are not specially mentioned because full details of them will be found in the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer.

In keeping with the country-wide, nay, world-wide trends, the population further increased by 2,000 to 62,430—some 580 less than that for 1962 but, nevertheless, a sizeable addition to a district predominately rural in character.

Outwardly, from a physical view-point, the general health of the community continued to be good with no major outbreaks of infectious or communicable disease, but this apparent state of well-being does not nowadays always reveal the true concept of the " mens sana in corpore sano," in its widest sense. Despite standards of living almost higher than elsewhere in the world, the element of material gain in all sections of the community seems to colour adversely the many benefits of our so-called welfare state and especially of the health and soci l services so freely available. The increasing "tempo of living" has brought in its train mental stress, restlessness and frustration at every level of our society and this is especially prevalent in the urban parts of the district, particularly in the recently created over-spill housing estates where the change-over from the " old " to the " new " has resulted in many instances of a persistent backward glance instead of a forward outlook at a really better state of affairs. In some localities my general practitioner colleagues report that a very large proportion of their time has to be devoted to prescribing medicaments to allay such fears and, fortunately—what is more important—unravelling the many coloured, tangled skeins of day to day worries.

The undoubted increase of moral and other forms of delinquency is rightly causing grave concern. The awakening of the public conscience to the needs of the rising generation in the promotion of schemes for better use of its leisure augurs well for the future and it is in this context that health education is playing an increasingly important part.

For the fourteenth successive year no cases of Diphtheria occurred and for the sixth no reports of Poliomyelitis were confirmed. Protection against these serious maladies and also against tetanus and whooping cough is now readily sought by parents for their children who also receive booster injections at the appropriate times.

Compared with 1962 when less than 100 cases were notified the incidence of Measles increased tenfold and, unfortunately,

with two deaths.

Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis decreased by half to nine cases with no fatalities.

No reports of Typhoid or Para-typhoid came to note but eight cases of Food Poisoning all in persons under fifteen years were reported.

The general volume and scope of the work of a busy inspectorate continued at a high level with the number of individual visits and inspections at 8,842.

Some 428 nuisances were reported and abated compared with 400 in the previous year and included over-flowing cesspools (40) obstructed drains and sewers (88) and fouled ditches and water courses (37). On the other hand, housing defects comprised 176 items ranging from dampness and defective walls to unsatisfactory water supplies.

In connection with housing, unfortunately, no new Council houses were completed during the year but operations commenced on housing schemes at Fillongley and Meriden. On the face of it, this appears disappointing but is not an unusual occurrence in the over-all provision of new dwellings under Local Authorities auspices. Nevertheless, viewed against a total of 615 applications for re-housing still outstanding, the need to accelerate progress becomes more pressing. Details of the housing situation in respect of general needs and slum clearance will be found in the body of the report.

At the end of the year the Council owned 1,816 houses comprising 10.2 per cent. of the total inhabited dwellings in the district.

The Birmingham and Coventry Water Departments supplied the bulk of the water with contributions by the North Eastern Warwickshire Board (parishes of Arley and Astley) and the South Staffordshire Water Works Company (parish of Wishaw and Moxhull). The over-all ratio of house/pipe borne supplies rose from 98.14 per cent. to 98.32 per cent. covering 17,205 of the 17,499 homesteads in the district. Four small schemes involving fifteen properties were completed and five additional schemes involving twenty-seven properties were approved. The public supplies continued to be adequate, pure and wholesome with no evidence of plumbo-solvency.

Regarding sampling of " mains " supplies, chemical and bacteriological examinations are conducted by the various Boards and prove satisfactory. On the other hand, sampling of wells and springs gave varying results, the majority unsatisfactory in both respects.

As customary, since 1944 all meat killed in the district for human consumption continued to be inspected. Therefore, on the face of it, the coming into operation of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 on the 1st October should have had little effect on the time factor involved. In fact, allowing for annual leave and other contingencies, meat inspection now absorbs the working time of one third of the total establishment of seven Inspectors.

Compared with the previous year the number of carcases examined decreased by 7,147 to the large still total of 31,916. However, the proportion of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption continued to be small.

Another important part of the routine work of the Department in connection with the safe-guarding of food is the inspection of premises where such is prepared and/or sold. In all some 535 premises were visited, including 96 mobile shops and 127 places where food is consumed. In the course of routine inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations some 234 defects and contraventions came to light a large proportion of which concerned inadequate water supplies and facilities for personal hygiene. In 19 instances personal hygiene was specifically defaulted.

Maintaining its interest in problems arising from atmospheric pollution your Authority continued its membership of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council.

Measurement of grit and sulphur dioxide was commenced in 1948 and it is pleasing to be able to record a steady decrease in the amount of grit since then. Unfortunately, little change in the amount of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere is apparent and this is a problem which cannot be readily solved. In July, 1963 the commissioning of the Lurgi gas-producing plant by the West Midlands Gas Board at Coleshill, close to the Hams Hall Electricity Generating Station, added a further potential source of atmospheric pollution. At this plant emission of grit and sulphur dioxide is comparatively small but a considerable nuisance arose at the outset and still continued at the close of the year. This was due to a particularly unpleasant smell arising from surplus gas discharging unburnt into the atmosphere and the presence of hydrogen sulphide. While teething troubles are commonplace with most plants of this kind, concerted efforts on the part of those responsible resulted in the lessening of the nuisance to a large extent but it is probable that some nuisance is always likely to persist.

In compiling this composite and necessarily brief report some sections have been contributed by my Chief Public Health Inspector. Once again, I am indebted to your Engineer and Surveyor for information regarding sewage and sewerage disposal as well as refuse collection.

In conclusion, I hasten to record my appreciation of the zealous work of a keen, eager inspectorate and other members of the staff and the ready co-operation and help from other departments. At the same time I wish to express my thanks for your encouragement and support throughout the year.

R. S. McELROY,
Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
COLESHILL.
August, 1964.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
1963

Chairman of the Council :

J. D. STEWART, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

H. KELSEY,

Clerk of the Council :

RAYMOND E. HALE, F.C.C.S.

Public Health Committee : 1963-64

Adams, H. W.
Antrobus, W.
Barnes, Mrs. D.
Cockersole, B. F.
Cosgrove, M. J.
Day, A. R.
Earle, R. J.
Edwards, N. A.
Gee, Capt. D.
Greensmith, H.
Gregg, Mrs. M.
Guest, G. B.
Harland, Mrs. J M.
Kelsey, E. J. O.
Kelsey, H.
Lynall, Mrs. G. M.
Neal, W. B.
Parry, Mrs. E. I.
Rees, D. W.
Stewart, J. D.
Victor-Halford, C. A.
Wheatley, Mrs. C. M.
Williams, R.

Housing Committee : 1963-64

Aylesford, Earl of
Barnes, Mrs. D.
Bradley Miller, K.
Day, A. R.
Earle, R. J.
Edwards, N. A.
Gregg, Mrs. M.
Hales, A. F.
Harland, Mrs. J. M.
Harvey, W.
Jackson, Mrs. V. L.
Kelsey, H.
Kelsey, E. J. O.
Knowles, T.
Lowe, G. H.
Lynall, Mrs. G. M.
Martin, Mrs. L. E.
Neal, W. B.
North, Mrs. E. M.
Page, J.
Parry, Mrs. E. I.
Prosser, D. W.
Sakne, E.
Stewart, J. D.
Victor-Halford, C. A.
Williams, R.
Wyldbore-Smith, A. R.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1963

Medical Officer of Health :

R. S. McELROY, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.

(Also Medical Officer of Health, Tamworth Rural District Council and Area Medical Officer, North Western Area, Warwickshire County Council)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

R. HAINES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. B. STOKES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

W. W. G. CUTTS, M.A.P.H.I.
R. L. TUDGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
B. H. HALES, M.A.P.H.I.
E. FOSTER, M.A.P.H.I.
D. HUNT, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Clerk :

J. D. MYNARD, L.M.R.S.H.

Council Offices :

Council House,
Coleshill.
Telephone : Coleshill 3141.

Office of the Medical Officer of Health :

Area Health Office,
Park Road,
Coleshill.
Telephone : Coleshill 2331-2.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	61,775
Population (Estimated Mid. 1963)	62,430
Population (Census 1951)	38,075
„ („ 1961)	57,520
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec., 1963)	18,278
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1963)	£2,557,932
Product of a penny rate	£4,181

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	577	546	1,123
Illegitimate	19	18	37
Totals	596	564	1,160

Birth Rate

18.58 per 1,000 estimated population

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
18·58	19·37	19·60	20·20	19·08	20·03	18·55	17·37	16·14	17·53

Illegitimate Live Births. (Per cent of total Live Births) = 3.10

Still Births

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	12	6	18
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	12	6	18

Still Birth Rate

18.86 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
18·86	20·08	16·5	14·52	16·05	20·58	18·18	21·67	25·35	16·99

Total Live and Stillbirths = 1,178

Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes	249	214	463

Crude Death Rate

7.06 per 1,000 estimated population.

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
7·41	7·06	7·11	7·33	7·03	7·36	6·91	7·49	8·35	8·26

Classified Causes of Death.

	Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	2	—	2
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	2	—	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	5	14
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	1	15
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	22	46
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2	2
16.	Diabetes	2	2	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	35	60
18.	Coronary disease, angina	54	21	75
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	9	13
20.	Other heart disease	24	30	54
21.	Other circulatory disease	6	13	19
22.	Influenza	1	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	13	12	25
24.	Bronchitis	16	7	23
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	5	8
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	2	2	4
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20	29	49
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	11	1	12
34.	All other accidents	6	5	11
35.	Suicide	4	—	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
37.	All causes	249	214	463

Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

Year	Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
1953 ..	38,220	643	339	+304
1954 ..	39,590	694	327	+367
1955 ..	42,870	692	358	+334
1956 ..	46,820	813	351	+462
1957 ..	49,490	918	342	+576
1958 ..	52,260	1,047	385	+662
1959 ..	54,590	1,042	384	+658
1960 ..	56,960	1,153	418	+735
1961 ..	57,750	1,132	411	+721
1962 ..	60,430	1,171	427	+744
1963 ..	62,430	1,160	463	+697

Maternal Deaths .. Nil.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	7	8	15
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	7	8	15

Infant Mortality Rate.

12.93 per 1,000 births.

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
12.93	18.78	15.01	17.34	14.39	16.2	20.7	22.1	30.3	28.8

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	4	5	9

Neonatal Death Rate .. 7.75 per 1,000 live births.
(first four weeks)

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births
13.35

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate live births
Nil

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)
7.75

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	4	5	9

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)
22.92

Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)
Births		
Live Births ..	*15.79	18.2
Still Births ..	18.86(a)	17.3(a)
Deaths		
All causes	*11.26	12.2
Infant Mortality ..	12.93(b)	20.9(b)
Neonatal mortality	7.75 (b)	

* Using comparability factors (Births 0.85 and Deaths 1.52).
(a) per 1,000 total live and still births.
(b) per 1,000 live births.

Cancer.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms	47	41	88

Cancer Death Rate = 1.4 per 1,000 estimated population.

Population

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 62,430 —an increase of 2,000 over the 1962 total of 60,430, still mostly in the Parish of Kingshurst.

Births

The standardised Birth Rate of 15.79 per 1,000 estimated population was lower than the figure of 18.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The standardised Death Rate of 11.26 per 1,000 population was again less than that of 12.2 for England and Wales. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart, cancer and vascular disease of the central nervous system predominating in the order given. Cancer in various forms caused 88 deaths. Of these, 15 were due to lung cancer—three more than last year—affecting 14 males and 1 female.

Motor vehicle accidents were responsible for 11 male and 1 female deaths.

For the twelfth year in succession no mother died in child-birth.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Although several cases were assessed for admission to chronic sick or residential accommodation, in no instance was statutory action necessary on my part for compulsory removal under Section 47 of the Act.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1963.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1961 in parenthesis) at Ages — Years								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages	Under 1	1–5	5–15	15–25	25–45	45–65	65 and up-w'ds.		
Measles	1,028 (93)	28	513	461	18	8	–	–	–	2
Whooping Cough	40 (49)	6	17	16	1	–	–	–	–	–
Diphtheria	– (–)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Erysipelas	4 (6)	–	–	–	–	1	2	1	–	–
Enteric Fever	– (–)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scarlet Fever	15 (15)	–	2	13	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pneumonia	16 (17)	–	–	2	–	4	3	7	8	25
Malaria	– (–)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dysentery	90 (158)	1	14	50	7	18	–	–	7	–
Puerperal Pyrexia	91 (79)	–	–	–	46	45	–	–	91	–
Meningococcal Infection	1 (1)	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	– (–)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Non-paralytic	– (–)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute Infective Encephalitis	– (–)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Encephalitis Lethargica	– (–)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	43 (22)	43	–	–	–	–	–	–	43	–
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9 (19)	–	–	–	2	3	4	–	–	–
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4 (3)	–	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	1
Food Poisoning	8 (9)	–	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	1,349 (433)	79	550	546	74	82	10	8	150	28

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

Notifiable Disease	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Measles	1028	93	1,980	21	344	619	1,006	7	705	155
Whooping Cough	40	11	49	71	72	20	112	118	57	173
Diphtheria	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Erysipelas	4	6	2	4	2	5	3	5	3	3
Enteric Fever ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scarlet Fever....	15	15	36	35	54	46	15	92	28	20
Pneumonia	16	17	35	23	63	42	48	25	40	22
Malaria	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Dysentery	90	158	46	48	96	41	36	122	60	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	91	79	98	67	98	111	118	100	73	97
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1	1	2	–	–	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	1	6	–
Non-paralytic..	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	3	–
Acute Infective Encephalitis ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–
Encephalitis Lethargica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ophthalmia .... Neonatorum ..	43	22	8	3	8	24	34	23	7	14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	9	19	27	19	15	33	18	26	31	34
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	4	3	4	4	4	2	3	2	5	11
Food Poisoning..	8	9	7	17	11	2	–	2	11	19
Totals	1349	433	2,293	313	769	945	1,405	525	1,030	557

General Comment

Compared with 1962, notifications of infectious diseases increased sharply from 433 to 1,349, for the most part due to the increased incidence of Measles, in keeping with the bi-ennial periodicity of this disease.

Whooping Cough

Cases reported increased from 11 to 40 with a large number of the cases in the 5-15 year age group an unusual state of affairs because the disease usually mostly occurs in the 1-5 year age group.

The following table gives details of the immunisation campaign where, for the most part, the injection against whooping cough is combined with those against diphtheria and tetanus. It is pleasing to record that the total number of children inoculated increased from 1,621 to 1,707

Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1963.

	Age at Date of Injection					
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	759	245	7	9	3	1,023
Reinforcing	1	494	80	105	4	684
Totals	760	739	87	114	7	1707

Diphtheria

For the fourteenth successive year no cases have been notified but this satisfactory state of affairs gives no ground for complacency because the disease still does occur in this country

The table sub-pended summarises the work undertaken by general practitioners and County Council Staff.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1963.

(Comparative figures for 1962 are given in parentheses)

	Age at date of injection					
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	759 (666)	246 (295)	11 (34)	20 (30)	64 (11)	1,100 (1,036)
Re-inforcing	1 (11)	501 (515)	201 (281)	507 (457)	321 (261)	1,531 (1,525)
Totals	760 (677)	747 (810)	212 (315)	527 (487)	385 (272)	2,631 (2,561)

Smallpox

In my 1962 report mention was made of the large number of vaccinations performed as a repercussion of the outbreak of smallpox elsewhere in England and Wales. During the year under review this figure fell to 722, nearly half of which were related to infants under two years of age.

Table showing number of Persons vaccinated against Smallpox in 1963.

(Comparative figures for 1962 are given in parentheses)

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated	68 (678)	333 (370)	65 (442)	35 (2,137)	53 (3,172)	554 (6,799)
Re-Vaccinated ..	— (7)	— (7)	7 (97)	16 (1,477)	145 (5,397)	168 (6,985)
Totals	68 (685)	333 (377)	72 (539)	51 (3,614)	198 (8,569)	722 (13,784)

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of 15 cases was the same as in 1962 the majority in the 5-15 year age group and all of a mild nature.

Pneumonia

16 cases were reported, almost half of which were in persons of 65 and upwards. In addition 25 deaths were notified the excess of 18 relating to fatalities where Pneumonia was only a second cause of mortality.

Dysentery

Notifications declined to 90 compared with 158 in 1962 and 46 for 1961. Of these, 7 cases had to be admitted to hospital with 1 fatality. As part of the Health Education programme in schools emphasis is laid on the necessity for strict attention to personal hygiene and no group of cases was specifically connected with any school.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Reports increased slightly from 79 to 91 practically all of which were from Marston Green Maternity Hospital where admissions for the year were 6,935 so that the incidence was relatively low.

Acute Poliomyelitis

As mentioned in my introductory remarks, for the sixth successive year no cases came to light and the following table summarises the vaccination campaign in the Meriden and Tamworth Rural Districts comprising the North Western Area of the County.

The use of the Sabin or Oral Vaccine has now largely superseded that of the Salk or injection preparation.

Completed Poliomyelitis Injections as at 31st December, 1963

Age	Primary		Booster		Fourths		Totals		Grand Totals
	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	
0-15 years	332	20,282	2,420	18,218	677	8,208	3,429	46,708	50,137
15-25 years	48	4,896	297	4,005	13	9	358	8,910	9,268
25-50 years	292	3,860	248	4,663	18	15	558	8,538	9,096
Expectant Mothers	8	1,204	36	1,192	5	—	49	2,396	2,445
Others ..	40	1,129	282	1,048	19	15	341	2,192	2,533
Totals ..	720	31,371	3,283	29,126	732	8,247	4,735	68,744	73,479

Tuberculosis

During the year 11 new cases of Pulmonary and 4 of the non-pulmonary type were reported compared with 20 and 3 cases respectively in 1962. Inward transfers of cases already notified elsewhere totalled 16 and 2 respectively with the majority re-housed by Birmingham Corporation in their Kingshurst Estate and for the most part arrested or quiescent and non-infectious but, of course, still subject to regular supervision.

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1963

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1962	189	143	17	31
2. New Cases	9	2	—	4
3. Inward Transfers	8	8	—	2
4. Removals	7	7	1	—
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1961	199	146	16	37

The Chest Clinic, opened at Coleshill in 1954, continued in charge of Dr. W. E. Zundel, the Chest Physician, with the radiographer from St. Gerard's Hospital, Coleshill, in attendance on Tuesdays and Wednesdays when the Clinic operates.

Cases attending Coleshill Chest Clinic at 31st December, 1963

	Men	Women	Children	Total Patients	Total attendances
Pulmonary	113	86	15	214	—
Non-Pulmonary	3	18	8	29	—
Other Cases	—	—	—	252	—
Totals	116	104	23	495	1,343

The B.C.G. Vaccination Clinic, opened in February, 1955 continued in charge of Dr. Zundel and from the table below it will be seen that 45 children were vaccinated.

No. of persons vaccinated at Coleshill B.C.G. Clinic during 1963

Men	Women	Children	Total
3	12	45	60

The sex incidence and age groups of the new pulmonary cases is shown in the following table a feature of which is the large proportion of males (14) in the 15-55 age groups compared with females (9) affected demonstrating the greater degree of exposure to infection by men as would be expected. It is also noteworthy that one male over the age of 65 was diagnosed among the " chest " cases, proof of the increasing importance of screening elderly persons thought to be suffering from chronic bronchitis but, in reality, from, or also with a superimposed tubercular infection, Cases of this kind constitute a reservoir of infection for the spread of a disease which although, nowadays, under control is far from complete eradication in the community.

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths Notified during 1963

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	2	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	16	9	—	3	1	—	—	—

Mass Radiography Survey

In the report of the Coventry Mass Radiography Unit for 1963, which covers the greater part of the County excluding Birmingham, Dr. A. Gordon Evans states that the combined work of the main Unit and the Caravan Unit totalled 5,891 miniature examinations. Owing to the decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis in the rural areas, in future, only one Unit will operate in this area. Whereas in 1960 the prevalence per 1,000 head of population requiring supervision or treatment for Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 1.93, since then the incidence has fallen to 1.43 per 1,000 for 1963, thus, indicating the slow decline in the incidence of active Tuberculosis and in the number of cases discovered. It is pleasing to record that no active or quiescent cases were found among some 577 persons examined in this district. Nevertheless, as Dr. Evans has previously stated on many occasions Pulmonary Tuberculosis is by no means conquered.

Suspected milk supplies are investigated by the County Health Department and the position during the year was as follows :—

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1963.

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Tuberculin Tested	12	Nil

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewering of Burton Green, Berkswell, in conjunction with Warwick Rural District Council was completed during the year. Tenders were received for sewer extensions in the Balsall Street area and a commencement was made with the work. An approved list of contractors was prepared in connection with the re-sewering of parts of Castle Bromwich with a view to inviting them to tender. The consulting engineers submitted a preliminary report on a proposal to replace three existing sewage disposal works in the parish of Arley by one large disposal works. The designs of various extensions of sewers in other parishes were continued.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection services have operated satisfactorily during the year. Further progress has been made towards the replacement of pail closets and since the approach to owners in 1960, 223 pail closets have been replaced and proposals in respect of a further 80 have been approved.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The following inspections and visits were made :—

Houses :	Inspected and recorded	89
	Other visits	1,213
	Overcrowding	11
Rent Act		11
Nuisances		1,002
Clean Air Act		222
Food examination		1,966
Slaughterhouses		70
Food Premises		389
,, ,,	(registered)	53
Food stalls and vehicles		44
Bakehouses		12
Dairies		3
Water Supplies		589
Caravan sites		310
Other moveable dwellings		11
Factories :	Non-power	—
	Power	39
	Other premises	13
Noise Abatement Act		89
Shops Act, section 38		5
National Assistance Act, section 50		3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act		1,714
Sewers and drains		394
Closet conversions		15
Infectious diseases		384
Pet Animals Act		5
Hairdressers and Barbers		9
Miscellaneous		177
		8,842

Complaints received and investigated—1,280.

NUISANCES

Nuisances were reported and dealt with as follows :—

Accumulations of refuse	24
Animals so kept	16
Cesspools overflowing	40
Sanitary conveniences defective	17
Drains and sewers obstructed	88
Dustbins defective or absent	8
Ditches and watercourses in foul state	37
Smoke, dust and effluvia	19
Houses in dirty condition (occupiers' neglect)	3
Housing defects :	
Dampness	27
Defective walls	15
,, roofs	17
,, chimneys	8
,, windows and doors	23
,, rainwater conductors	11
,, wall and ceiling plaster	20
,, floors	5
,, firegrates	11
,, washing boilers	1
,, soil pipes	2
,, paving	2
,, stairs	2
Unsatisfactory water supplies	32
	428

The new Lurgi Gas Works at Coleshill began production in July. Although the only one of its kind in England, a prototype plant in Scotland had been operated for some time previously and it was therefore hoped that the Scottish experience would result in the nuisance potential of the Coleshill plant being minimized, if not eliminated. It did in fact lead to the effective silencing of the periodical high-pressure discharge from the oxygen-making unit. Unfortunately, however, serious nuisances from smell arose at the outset and were continuing unabated at the end of the year.

A feature of the process is that gas is produced at very high pressure and fed direct to the mains, there being no storage. Consequently, when production has to be temporarily halted, as sometimes happens, there is a period in which large quanitities of gas have to be wasted. Provision is made for burning the unwanted gas in a steel flare stack 150 feet high. In the earliest stages, when it was most needed, the ignition device was unreliable, and from time to time the whole of the output from the works was discharged unburnt to atmosphere. The resultant nauseating smell was not always detectable on the site, but residents up to three miles down-wind found their houses virtually uninhabitable. The Gas Board officials tackled the problem with vigour and modified the ignition device, and the nuisance from this source has consequently been much reduced.

Unfortunately however there have been other sources of smells. An incidental problem, now thought to be under control, arose from the use of a particularly foul-smelling chemical which is added to the gas in minute proportion to give it a distinctive odour. Even slight leakages from this process had such unpleasant consequences to the operators themselves that means of preventing them had to be found, and were. A less tractable and more serious matter was the emission of hydrogen sulphide, which took place almost continuously. Residents (and there are many) within three miles of the works had to suffer this foul smell day and night, sometimes for several days at a time according to wind direction. Noise from escaping steam was another cause for complaint in the early stages, when over-production of steam was unavoidable. This nuisance had lessened somewhat by the the end of the year, but occasional complaints were still received.

The gas-making process, being registrable under the Alkali Act, is not within the Council's direct control, but there is close collaboration between the Council's Public Health Inspectors and H.M. District Alkali Inspector, who has given much personal time and attention to the problems which have arisen. Acknowledgment must also be made of the understanding and co-operative attitude of the Gas Board officials in charge of the plant. It is however regretably evident that the siting of the works is an imposition on nearby residents. Despite all the assurances given by the Gas Board in the proposal stages, the plant has caused persistent nuisances, although there is still hope that

effective remedies may be found. Having regard to the degree of nuisance, complaints have been relatively few and moderate, indicating patience and tolerance on the part of the residents for which the Board should be grateful.

Investigation of a complaint of nuisance due to the discharge of foul drainage at Gilson revealed an unsatisfactory position, arising from the piping of drainage from small groups of houses to discharge on to agricultural land, the owner of which objected. The nuisance appeared to be of long standing, and following consultation with the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, the Council were recommended to add the case to the list of groups of properties for which sewerage schemes are to be prepared.

A similar situation arose at Church Lane, Meriden, where the foul condition of a roadside ditch gave rise to complaint, and the same action was taken.

No complaint was made during the year about dust nuisance from the ash lagoons at the Hams Hall electricity stations, which had been a source of trouble for some years, and the long-standing problem of burning sludge banks at the Minworth works of the Drainage Board did not recur.

Control of processes involving the recovery of metal by the burning of scrap cable was transferred to the Alkali Inspectorate by the Alkali Etc., Works Order 1963. One factory which had caused considerable nuisance in the past did not operate in this respect during the year, but it was understood that proposals were to be made for the installation of new plant.

HOUSING

No new houses were completed during the year, but building was begun on housing schemes at Fillongley and Meriden.

The customary annual review of applications was completed and gave a total of 615 applications still outstanding, a further rise since the previous revision of 41 cases. The current list, under parish headings, has since been submitted to the Council via the Housing Committee, the greatest need being at Coleshill (86), Arley (78), Fillongley (64) and Meriden (64). Proposals for further building at Water Orton should ease the Coleshill problem a little, although Kingshurst (27), Bickenhill (35) and Castle Bromwich (40), would also depend on the Water Orton scheme in the absence of provision in those parishes. The classification of the current applications is as follows :—

General needs		370
Slum clearance :		
General	66	
Old people	34	
		100
Agricultural		20
Old people (other than slum clearance)		125
		615

The comparative totals for each year since 1958 are given below, together with the numbers of houses which have been available for letting.

Year	*Total applications on list*	*New houses completed*	*Casual vacancies*	*Total houses available*
1958	549	42	56	98
1959	503	44	71	115
1960	619	—	61	61
1961	495	54	50	104
1962	574	63	49	112
1963	615	—	38	38
	Totals	203	325	528

A significant reduction in the number of casual vacancies may be due to the fact that most Council house tenants capable of providing their own houses have probably now done so.

The 528 houses available for letting during the six years gives an average of 88 a year, and they were used as follows :—

Year	*Slum clearance*	*Other priorities*	*General needs (including old people)*	*Totals*
1958	47	16	35	98
1959	34	10	71	115
1960	15	10	36	61
1961	40	9	55	104
1962	54	10	48	112
1963	9	8	21	38
Totals	199	63	266	528

Of the total of 100 families awaiting re-housing from condemned houses, 28 are in the parishes of Coleshill, Castle Bromwich and Bickenhill, and it is unlikely that they can be dealt with until more houses are built at Water Orton. The 25 cases of this kind at Fillongley and 16 at Meriden, together with others in neighbouring parishes, will be provided for in the building schemes now in progress.

Slum Clearance

Further steady progress with the Council slum clearance programme is indicated by the following table of action taken during 1963 :—

Clearance Areas	
Number of orders made	2
Number of houses affected	13
Number of orders confirmed	2
Number of houses demolished	20
Single houses	
Demolition orders made	46
Houses demolished	24
Undertakings accepted that houses will cease to be used for habitation	6
Closing orders made	5
Houses made fit—	
Voluntarily, by owners	43
By owners, after formal notices	1
By Council, in default of owners	nil

A clearance area of five houses and two houses in another area, were demolished by the Council in default of the owners, the cost being recoverable. Authority was given for the demolition of four other clearance area houses in default, but the owner subsequently did the work himself.

The general standard of housing in the district is now relatively high. Some of the houses that are being condemned (with no opposition from the owners) would have been classed as repairable only a few years ago. The high cost of building land has an influence in this respect : it is sometimes uneconomic to repair a relatively sound house because it stands in the way of the redevelopment of other adjoining land. Indeed a few quite substantial houses have been voluntarily demolished to make way for new building, usually at higher densities.

Overcrowding

The position at the end of the year was as follows :—

No. of private houses known to be overcrowded	3
No. of Council houses known to be overcrowded	5
No. of families involved	12
No. of persons involved	87
Cases relieved during year by Council	1
Cases relieved during year otherwise	2

Rent Act, 1957

No applications were made or certificates issued or cancelled during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

The following additional water mains were laid during the year :—

Locality	Length of main (yards)	Estimated cost £	No. of properties to be served
(a) *Schemes approved during* 1963			
Kenilworth Road, Berkswell	560	1,490	4
Wootton Green Lane, Balsall	175	525	2
(b) *Schemes approved in* 1962			
Dove House Farm, Shawbury Lane, Shustoke	900	3,600	8
Hollygate Cottage, Fivefield Road, Keresley	117	390	1

In addition, the following schemes were approved and ordered, although the work had not been started by the end of the year.

Honiley Road, Fen End, Balsall	175	850	3
Whitestitch, Packington	626	1,860	4
Tamworth Road, Wishaw	1,180	2,480	5
Fern Hill Lane, Balsall	320	1,020	3
Kingsbury Road, Lea Marston	1,970	8,100	12

The proposal (referred to in the 1962 report) to provide supplies to five houses in Birmingham Road, Coleshill, by a short extension of the main and a long service pipe, remains deferred because the owner concerned has not yet agreed to carry out the necessary private works. The four houses at Maxstoke mentioned in the 1962 report are also still without mains supplies, the owners having failed to provide the long service pipe which they had agreed to do. Whilst the use of long services instead of mains is sometimes justifiable economically where the properties involved are widely separated, there are often administrative difficulties of which these two cases are typical.

Extent of provision of piped supplies

The percentage of houses which do not have public water mains available is now 1.68, compared with 1.86 in 1962. The provision of new mains and the demolition of some houses which were without supplies accounts for the improvement.

The following table shows the extent of provision of piped supplies throughout the district :—

Parish	Total Houses	Houses without mains water available	Houses having water mains available			
			Birmingham Water Department	Coventry Water Department	N.E.W'shire Water Board	S. Staffs Waterworks Co.
Allesley	1,255	2	—	1,253	—	—
Arley	953	2	—	—	951	—
Astley	66	9	—	—	57	—
Balsall	1,029	13	—	1,016	—	—
Barston	135	9	—	126	—	—
Berkswell	684	8	—	676	—	—
Bickenhill	975	9	966	—	—	—
Castle Bromwich	2,845	—	2,845	—	—	—
Coleshill	1,760	15	1,745	—	—	—
Corley	246	4	—	242	—	—
Curdworth	162	8	154	—	—	—
Fillongley	436	94	338	—	4	—
Hampton-in-Arden	446	9	—	437	—	—
Keresley	1,086	—	—	1,086	—	—
Kingshurst	3,065	3	3,062	—	—	—
Lea Marston	87	8	79	—	—	—
Maxstoke	86	34	52	—	—	—
Meriden	558	16	—	542	—	—
Packington (Great and Little)	63	30	—	33	—	—
Shustoke	190	—	190	—	—	—
Water Orton	924	—	924	—	—	—
Nether Whitacre	274	3	271	—	—	—
Over Whitacre	109	11	98	—	—	—
Wishaw and Moxhull	65	7	—	—	—	58
	17,499	294	10,724	5,411	1,012	58

Public supplies were generally satisfactory both in quality and quantity. A minor case of inadequate pressure involving groups of houses in the Gun Hill and Hill Top areas of Arley was referred to the North East Warwickshire Water Board and an improvement effected.

The Council's general policy regarding the provision of water mains was reviewed early in the year and it was decided (1) to discontinue the practice of seeking private contributions to the cost of main-laying ; and (2) to aim at providing a public water supply for every house in the district, subject to an overall limit of expenditure by guarantee payments of £12,000 per annum. The Public Health Committee subsequently re-considered the schedule of houses without water mains, produced as a result of the 1962 survey and called for a detailed report on the parishes of Fillongley and Maxstoke. These two parishes included the largest groups of properties still without supplies. A proposal was submitted for taking a branch main from the Birmingham Water Department's 20in. pumping main at Maxstoke, eastwards through Maxstoke to Fillongley. The Water Department advised that the main would not provide an adequate supply without the provision of booster equipment and a service reservoir, and proposed that the cost of these items should be borne jointly by them and the Council. This gave rise to consideration of the administrative principles involved and the matter had not been resolved by the end of the year. The estimated total capital cost of the scheme amounted to £98,150. It would provide for some 74 houses.

A scheme for laying mains to provide for 13 houses in the Little Packington area was deferred because of the high cost per house, the intention being to concentrate first on the cheaper schemes. It was however due for reconsideration early in 1964.

SAMPLING

The following table gives the results of analysis and bacteriological examination of water samples taken during the year:

Nature of Source	*Chemical*		*Bacteriological*	
	Satis.	*Unsatis.*	*Satis.*	*Unsatis.*
Old Wells	2	3	48	71
Springs	—	1	6	8
Mains	1	—	31	—
	3	4	85	79

MEAT INSPECTION

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

The Regulations came into operation on the 1st October, 1963, requiring the inspection of all meat killed in the district. Since it had been the custom to inspect all meat from the re-introduction of private slaughtering in 1954, the new requirement should theoretically have had little effect. However, the Regulations also prescribe a detailed and mandatory code of inspection, and require the stamping of carcases after inspection. They also require the presence of an inspector at the time of slaughter. In practice, it was quickly found that compliance with the Regulations took a good deal of extra time, all of it at the convenience of the butchers. It is now necessary to have an inspector continuously on duty at the largest of the eight slaughterhouses. Allowing for annual leave and other unavoidable absences, meat inspection now takes the equivalent working time of two-and-a-half inspectors out of a total establishment of seven.

The Regulations empower the Council to charge the butchers the cost of inspection within a prescribed scale. The Council, in common with many others, immediately resolved to charge the maximum. The income thereby derived, based on the previous year's slaughtering, was estimated at about £1,600, which barely covers the cost of employing one inspector. The principle caused some resentment in the trade, on the ground that inspection, being a public health safeguard, should not be charged to the cost of production but should be paid for entirely from public funds.

The following statistical information relating to inspections and condemnations is in the usual form, and discloses no significant change in the proportion of unfit meat, which continues to be small.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	4,402	589	336	19,096	7,523
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned.....	—	2	7	19	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	485	164	13	1,128	1,036
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.01	28.18	5.95	6.0	13.82
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned.....	2	3	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23	43	3	—	90
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.56	7.81	0.89	—	1.29
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	31	2	—	1	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned.....	—	—	—	—	—

The following table gives a summary of the meat condemned :—

		Tuberculosis cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	All other diseases and conditions cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Cattle (excluding cows)							
	Carcase meat	7	0	13	10	1	18
	Offals		3	13	59	2	12
Cows	Carcase meat	14	3	19	10	2	14
	Offals	2	3	16	19	0	23
Sheep	Carcase meat				7	1	16
	Offals				13	0	24
Pigs	Carcase meat	11	1	3	10	1	6
	Offals			2	10	0	13
	Totals	37	0	10	140	3	14

Inspection of other foods

In addition to meat condemned in the course of inspection at the slaughtering stage, a total of two tons six cwts. of other meat was condemned and destroyed after voluntary surrender by the owners. It included a quantity of frozen offal which suffered accidental contamination as a result of a train derailment at Marston Green. A total of 352 lbs. of miscellaneous tinned food was also condemned.

Slaughterhouses

The eight licensed slaughterhouses continued to be used and were maintained in a satisfactory condition, although some minor defects of maintenance at several of them had to be brought to the occupiers' notice.

Food premises

Premises inspected and recorded are classified as follows :—

Grocery	74
Grocery and general (not exclusively food)	63
Bread and cakes	11
Sweets and confectionery	34
Greengrocery	41
Butchery	37
Fish, wet and/or fried	28
Restaurants, cafes, etc.	29
Hotels and licensed premises	77
Ice-cream (incidental to trades other than food)	18
Industrial catering	21
Mobile shops, known to be trading in the district (irrespective of place of origin)	96
Bakehouses	6
	535

Registered food premises

The following premises are registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	6
Sale only of ice-cream	149
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat	19
Fish frying	13

Food Hygiene Regulations

The following defects and contraventions were discovered and dealt with in the course of routine inspections :—

Absence of hot and/or cold water supply	25
Sink and/or washhand basin defective or absent	34
Dirty walls and/or ceilings	35
Inadequate lighting	8
Inadequate equipment	3
Dirty equipment	11
No separate space for clothing	4
Closets and drains effective	19
Lack of attention to personal hygiene	19
Smoking whilst handling open food	1
Mobile shops without name and address	6
Absence of first aid equipment	11
Structural defects	12
Exposure of food to contamination	27
Inadequate ventilation	1
Dirty premises	15
Inadequate premises	3
	234

Complaints relating to food

Eleven complaints relating to alleged unsound food were received and investigated, compared with seventeen in 1962. They included cases of foreign material and mould growths in bread, cakes, pies and bottled milk. Thorough investigations were carried out and it was not considered necessary to take formal proceedings in any of the cases. This point of view was endorsed by most of the complainants who very properly were more concerned about preventing a possible recurrence than with securing the imposition of penalties.

Milk and Dairies

The following distributors of milk are registered :—

Retail dairymen having premises in the district	37
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk	40
	77

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Licences were issued to 46 persons permitting slaughtering by means of a captive bolt pistol in all cases and in 10 cases also by means of electrical stunning apparatus.

AIR POLLUTION

Measurement of air pollution was started in 1948 as a means of assessing the grit and sulphur discharged from the Hams Hall Electricity Generating Stations of the (now) Central Electricity Generating Board. As from July 1963 a further potential source of pollution was introduced in the neighbourhood, by the commissioning of the West Midlands Gas Board's new Lurgi gas-producing plant. This plant, in the parish of Coleshill, is quite near to Hams Hall. A re-siting of certain of the gauges was reported in 1962, in anticipation of the new source of pollution. The steam-raising plant at the Lurgi works is however quite small when compared with those at the power stations. It is provided with an efficient grit-arresting apparatus, and has not yet been proved to make a significant addition to the general level of solid air pollution. Other nuisances from the Lurgi works, of much greater consequence, have been discussed earlier in this report under the " nuisances " heading.

The efforts of the Electricity Authority to improve the grit arresting plant at the power stations appear to be producing results, the total recording of grit deposits in the locality continuing to fall, notwithstanding an increase in the total amount of fuel burnt. The reduction of atmospheric grit may not be evident to local residents, but is indicated by the gauge measurements. It will be apparent from the following table of average results, expressed in tons per square mile per month.

Deposit Gauge—Lea Marston Site

Monthly average	1949-1960 inclusive	—18.10
,, ,,	1961	—16.04
,, ,,	1962	—14.68
,, ,,	1963	—13.03

The pattern of reduced grit deposits is not repeated in the sulphur figures, which remain fairly constant, as indicated below by the results obtained from the sulphur candle instrument at Lea Marston :—

Sulphur Gauge—Lea Marston Site

		Empirical Units
Monthly average	1949-1960 inclusive	— 1.06
,, ,,	1961	— 0.97
,, ,,	1962	— 1.05
,, ,,	1963	— 1.15

CARAVAN DWELLINGS

At the end of the year a total of 26 licences had been issued under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. They included 16 in respect of single caravans, the other ten being for larger sites covering from 2 to 71 caravans. The total number of caravans permitted on all the licensed sites was 205, including 117 on four sites which are the subject of permanent planning permission. Four other sites, with a total of 33 caravans, are subject to the " run-down " procedure and are intended to be cleared, the latest by the end of 1966. The remaining 55 caravans on 18 sites are subject to short-term planning consents and licences, which are due to expire on various dates up to the 31st December, 1967.

The caravans are mainly used for permanent residential occupation and there are no holiday sites. All the sites have been well-conducted although there are still some respects in which certain of them do not yet comply with licensing requirements.

Difficulty was experienced regarding compliance with licensing conditions in relation to drainage at the largest site at Eaves Green, Meriden, on which 71 caravans are permitted. Permanent planning permission has been granted in respect of this site, which unfortunately is remote from a sewer, and is so situated that there is no natural outfall which could receive the treated effluent from a private disposal plant. The licensees were unwilling to provide adequate cesspool accommodation because of the excessive cost of emptying. They pressed very strongly their proposal to install a treatment plant, which was resisted on the grounds of potential nuisance. A request for the provision of a sewer, which could have served some neighbouring houses, was rejected by the Council's Public Health Committee, due to the inadequacy of the existing sewer to which the proposed new one would be connected. No mutually acceptable solution is yet apparent. Meanwhile the limited capacity of the existing cesspools precludes the provision of additional facilities which the licence requires.

RODENT CONTROL

A marked increase in the extent of general infestation by rats became evident during the year. The total number of visits made was only slightly less than in the previous year, when a special survey of farms was carried out for other purposes and the opportunity was taken to make incidental inspections for rodent infestation. With only one man available part-time, some limitation of activity had to be accepted, and it was found impracticable to carry out sewer treatments. This aspect of the work was selected for deferment because previous experience had shown the sewers to be relatively uninfested. The treatment of sewers will be resumed when the labour position permits.

The following table is a summary of the action taken during the year :—

Number of inspections made		1,714
Number of premises found to be infested and subsequently treated :—		
(a) domestic	347	
(b) business	43	390
Second treatments		24
Third treatments		8
Premises cleared		390
Premises not completely cleared		—
Number of dead rats found		595
Sewage works treated		5
Refuse tips treated		2
Sewer manholes inspected and treated		—

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The licence in respect of the one licensed pet shop was renewed for the year, the premises being satisfactorily maintained.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 50

One body was buried by the Council at a cost of £30 which was not recoverable, the deceased having left no estate.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

Information regarding action taken and defects recorded is given below in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Labour :—

Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	147	39	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	20	13	—	—
Total	169	52	—	—

Defects found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			Referred		
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	3	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	4	3	—	2	—

Outworkers

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel — Making, etc.,	10	—	—	—	—	—
Wearing apparel — Cleaning and Washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles (jewellery) ..	3	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	15	—	—	—	—	—

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